Degree Verification Practices 2015
A study by Personnel Screening Helpdesk
July 2015

This study examines the current degree verification facilities provided by major universities in the world. The sampled universities include the best 50 global universities listed on *Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2014-2015*. There is also a statistical review of the verification fees charged by universities or their agents.

Facilities Provided by Third Party Agents

Out of the 50 sampled universities, 35 of them (70%) have outsourced their verification services to third party agents. All third party agents provide online (accessible 24/7) facilities which allow online submission of degree verification requests, as well as online delivery of verification results, in an instant or available-after-research manner. The third party agents include:

- National Student Clearinghouse ("NSC") (in the United States)
- Higher Education Degree Datacheck ("HEDD") (in the United Kingdom)
- AuraData (in Canada)
- China Academic Degrees & Graduate Education Development Center ("CDGDC") (in China)

The above third party agents are contracted to handle degree verification requests from requestors such as HR and screening professionals. Requestors need to pay a fee for the verification service. The third party agents have tailored fee schedules for verification requests of different universities. For the 35 sampled universities which have contracted with third party agents, the average verification fee is USD 17.20 per request.
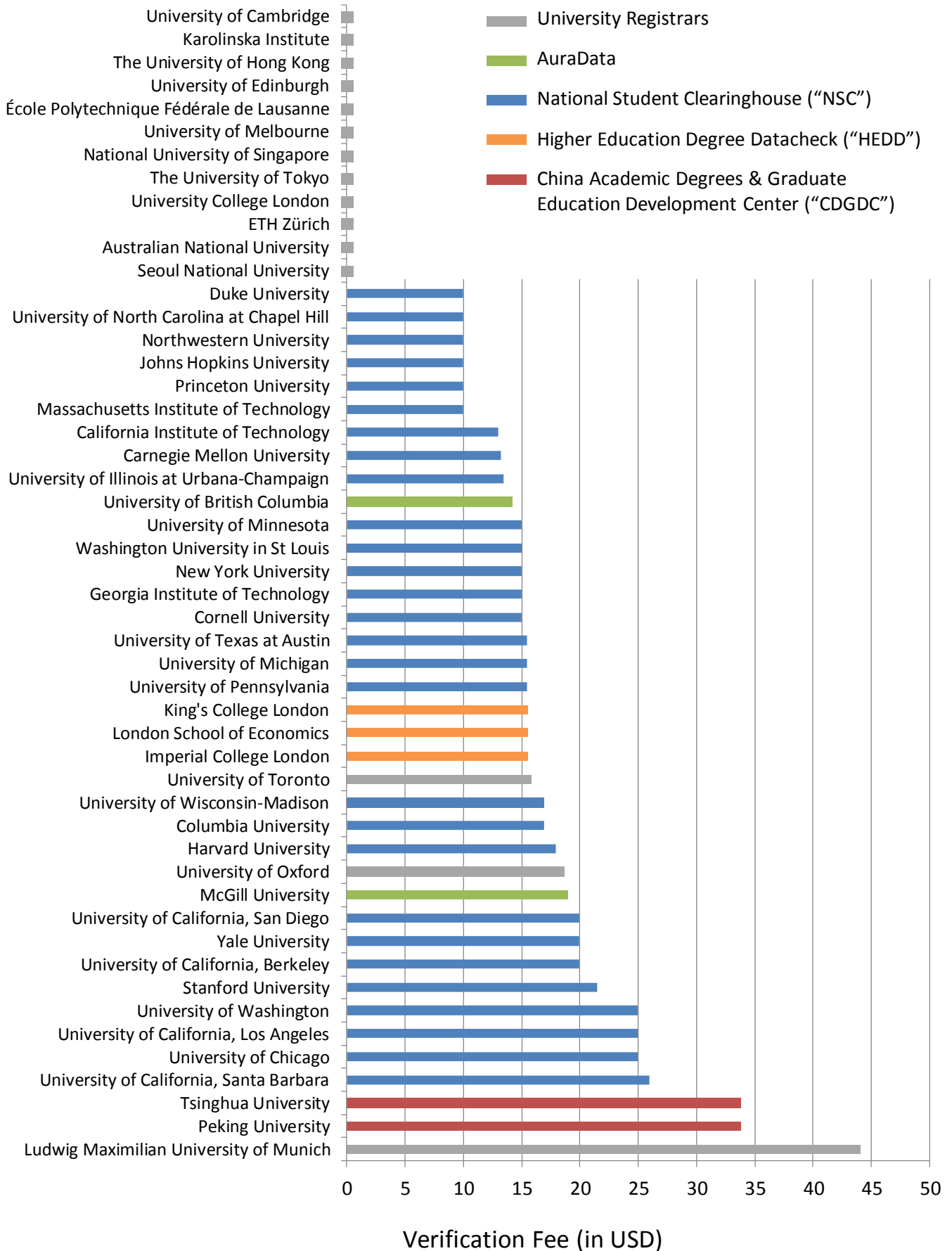
Facilities Provided by University Registrars

For the remaining 15 universities, the degree verification requests are handled by the university registrars (or offices of student administration/ degree conferral/ admission/ archive). Requests could be submitted via email, fax, mail or online facility. Confirmation over the phone is generally not available. Except for University of Toronto (CAD 20), University of Oxford (GBP 12) and Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (EUR 40), the other 12 universities do not charge for the verification services.

It is worth noting that, to facilitate degree verification, the following three universities provide online searchable databases of their university graduates:

- National University of Singapore
- University of Melbourne
- Australian National University

The above search facilities are free and accessible 24/7, and hence provide great convenience to HR and screening professionals.

Verification Fee (in USD)

Exchange rate: USD 1 = GBP 0.6429 = EUR 0.9067 = CAD 1.2638 = CNY 6.2095 (as of 6 July 2015)